

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01682 041326 Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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R 040945 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6601

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1682

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB CROWE

E. O. 11652: XGDS 3

TAGS: PFOR NO US

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT NORWAY

REF: OSLO 1611

1. I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO ACCEPT THE NORWEGIAN INVITATION TO VISIT OSLO IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUR PLANNED TRIP TO COPENHAGEN TO ATTEND THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JUNE. IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE NORWAY WAS LAST HONORED BY THE VISIT OF AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, AND I BELIEVE NORWAY'S RECORD AS AN ALLY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES JUSTIFIES SUCH A VISIT BEFORE LONG. THE FORTHCOMING NATO MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST CONVENIENT OCCASION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. OUR RELATIONS WITH NORWAY HAVE NOT, OF COURSE, BEEN WITHOUT PROBLEMS. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE GRATUITOUS AND UNHELPFUL CRITICISM ON VIETNAM, AND IN RECENT DAYS THE NORWEGIAN STAND ON THE PROPOSED NATO FLEET VISIT TO BARCELONA HAS BEEN MOST UNFORTUNATE.

3. THESE DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, ONLY SERVE TO EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH BETTER OUR RELATIONS HAVE BEEN WITH NORWAY THAN WITH NEIGHBORING SWEDEN AND DENMARK. WHILE CRITICAL ON VIETNAM, THE NORWEGIANS HAVE BEEN THE MOST RESTRAINED OF  
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THE SCANDINAVIANS IN THIS MATTER. AND UNLIKE DENMARK,  
NORWAY'S RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO'S  
DEFENSE EFFORT HAS BEEN EXCELLENT.

4. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS EAGER TO STRENGTHEN NORWAY'S  
TIES WITH THE US AND WITH NATO. I AM CONFIDENT YOU WOULD  
BE WARMLY RECEIVED AND THAT YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN JUNE  
WOULD HELP SIGNIFICANTLY TO MAKE NORWAY A RESPONSIVE AND  
COOPERATIVE PARTNER IN THE FORTHCOMING EFFORTS TO REFUR-  
BISH THE EUROPEAN- NORTH AMERICAN ALLIANCE.  
WITH WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS. CROWE

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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